MONTEREY NEWS

March 1982

RADIOACTIVE WASTE TRUCK LOST IN MONTEREY

On March 12 the driver of a truck carrying radioactive waste stopped at the Monterey General Store to ask directions. According to Maynard Forbes, manager of the store, the driver had lost his way and was looking for Route 20. One citizen directed him to go by way of Tyringham Road. The driver mentioned that because of the nature of his load he was not allowed to drive either on the Mass Pike or through the state of Connecticut. Maynard suggested that to avoid steep hills and sharp turns he should take Route 8 to Route 20. The truck drove away, and worries began to settle in the minds of those who learned of the incident.

A call was made to the Mass Dept. of Public Works. A Mr. Tracy there assured the caller that no radioactive waste trucks are supposed to go through Monterey. Furthermore any town along the routes of radioactive transport are to be notified before a truck is to pass through. When questioned further about regulation of radioactive transport, Mr. Tracy put a call into the Boston office of the DPW and learned that permits are granted through the Federal Government under Code 49 of the Federal By-Laws. So far as he could tell, the state of Massachusetts has nothing to do with granting permission for or regulating the trucking of radioactive wastes.

The truck which was lost in Monterey had the standard fallout shelter insignia on its body as well as a sign saying "Red Ball." (continued on page 4)

LAKE BUEL WEED PROBLEM SCRUTINIZED

A an informational meeting on February 10, the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BCRPC) presented two consultants from IEP, Inc. who are specialists in lake management. The men have been evaluating data which will lead to conclusions about the best way to reduce the weeds in the lake. The meeting which lasted over five hours was attended by representatives from the state Division of Water Pollution Control, Lake Buel Association members, lake residents, and members of the both New Marlborough and Monterey Conservation Commissions. Considerations of harvesting, drawdown and freezing, dredging, and septic system control were preliminary and so far inconclusive. More data will be analyzed and the report should be completed in early summer.

The present study is funded by a grant from the federal government, issued through the state and administered by BCRPC. The Town of Monterey and the Lake Buel Association also contributed money to do the project. Lake Buel is the only lake in the County to have a study being done. It will be of value and interest to the whole county, according to Bob Spencer of the BCRPC.

A weed control item for six Berkshire County ponds was recently added to the state deficiency budget by Rep. Dennis J. Duffin of Lenox. The appropriation, having passed the House and expected to pass the Senate, will total $118,000, $15,000 of which is designated for Lake Buel.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Last day to register for May 1st Town Meeting and elections: Saturday April 10.

OUR CHURCHES

CATHOLIC CHURCHES
Masses Schedule

Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield
Saturday - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday - 7:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Immaculate Conception, Mill River
Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Worship and Regular Meetings

Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with childcare at same time in the Social Room. Choir rehearsal, Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. at the parsonage. Meditation and prayer Thursdays 7:30 a.m. in the Social Room. All are invited to join us. Prayer group Thursdays 7:45 p.m. at the home of Lucy Smith.

LENTEN STUDY BREAKFASTS

During the Tuesdays of Lent, study breakfasts have been held in various homes in the community. The theme of the study is "From Resurrection to Empowerment".

The subject for March 23 is "Biblical Background on the Holy Spirig" led by Rev. Raymond Ward. The March 30 subject is "Light in Connection with Experiences of the Holy Spirit", led by Rev. Virgil V. Brallier. Historical and literary instances will be studied. The final session on April 6 is entitled "The Guiding Light Within" and will be led by David Bach.

The sessions begin each time at 7:00 a.m. with a continental breakfast. The study is from 7:20 to 8:00 a.m. Since the place of meeting is determined as the series proceeds anyone wishing to attend may call 528-2551 to get the place of meeting.

All in the community are invited to participate in this Lenten study.

MAUNDY THURSDAY COMMUNION

Holy Communion will be celebrated on April 8 at 7:30 p.m. using the ancient Office of Tenebrae. With this usage the gathering darkness to come on Good Friday is effectively dramatized. In connection with this service the Monterey Church also has a memorial celebration of all persons of the congregation who died during the year.

EASTER

The Easter service will be held on April 11 with the 10:30 morning worship. Music, scriptures and liturgy celebrating the resurrection of Christ will mark the day. All in the community are welcomed to celebrate all the events of Holy Week and Easter.

Community Dinner

Monterey's Community Dinner on Wednesday March 31 will feature a slide-show and talk on The Mondragon Story, by Dr. Terry Moller of the Trusteeship Institute in Amherst.

The story of the Mondragon Valley, in the Basque region of northern Spain, is one of creating a society free of unemployment and poverty. Starting with the dream and dedication of a Jesuit priest assigned to the poverty stricken Mondragon Valley, over the period of thirty years a social structure was built which assures residents jobs for life, opportunities for personal and working-life growth and creativity, educational assurances through college (and beyond), and a clean environment in which to live and work.

It's an amazing story; and how the lessons of Mondragon can help us with our social challenges will be discussed. The dinner begins at 6:30, followed by the presentation at 7:45. See you there!

THE CHURCH NEEDS A PLAYPEN

The United Church of Christ is looking for a playpen to be used for the nursery children during Church. Anyone who would be willing to loan or donate a playpen should call Virgil Brallier at 528-1031.

LEARNING TO SAY "I'M SORRY"

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

How many human ills are made easier by those who learn how to say, "I'm sorry." The ability to apologize for the hurts and pains we give each other does not necessarily heal all that is wrong, but it makes our passageway through this difficult area of human relationships much more manageable.

Consider the plight of the person who finds himself/herself unable to utter the words, "I'm sorry". Such a person is putting on the front of being perfect, infallible. That is an enormous burden to carry. Every time I act as if another is always responsible for the hurt or misunderstanding between us I am acting as judge and jury. I use my supposed innocence to put another in a defensive position.

How unreal it is to fail to acknowledge my own participation in the human dilemna of brokeness and separation. Without seeing, without recognizing and acting in good conscience I still am party to actions that injure others. This is as personal as my failing to see that my use of a particular form of humor went like a dagger into the heart of another. It is as impersonal as the fact that I am an American citizen who pays taxes and thus buys the guns with which to suppress and kill the peasants of El Salvador who long for dignity and hope even as I do. Thus it is that whether in personal actions or in my participation in various social, religious and political systems I am wittingly and unwittingly doing things to others for which I am sorry.

Though as a person of religious faith I may stoutly deny I ever intended to deepen the feelings of guilt and self-deprecation inanother, it has come to my attention more than once that I have done so. The fact that I did so unwittingly does not lessen my obligation to say "I'm sorry" to the persons who had a stumbling block put in their way. The fact that I share in the life of a town in which some people are injured by the town's regulations -- however well-meaning the regulations -- still makes me a party to something for which I should be saying, "I'm sorry".

Fortunately, most of us learn, through a life-time, to develop increasing sensitivity toward things we do which call for apology. It is right that we should. We are slower to become sensitive to those things which injure others through the various systems in which we share. If, all at once, I could see all the injury I do to others through my sharing in corporate life, I am afraid I would be overwhelmed. How very many are the ways that groups, in the interst or order, impose their will on individuals in injurious ways. We justify it by slogans such as "The greatest good for the greatest number". Yet any study of history will reveal how quickly such systems become unnecessarily repressive of individual rights and freedoms.

The road we travel together will indeed become easier as we learn more readily to say to each other "I'm sorry." That we should learn to do more quickly. But true development demands, further, that we ever be changing the things we are sorry about. In our search for order we should develop an increasing sensitivity to the ways individuals are unnecessarily hurt and hindered. Just as a decent human being learns to read his personal actions more carefully so as to avoid injury to others, so should we be developing sensitivity regarding the ways group life lays unnecessary restrictions on individuals. Because group standards are so broadly shared it is easier for us to overlook the ways we become unnecessarily restrictive and punative. We don't see what we are doing because we somehow imagine it is really not "us" taking the action.

This is a plea for a more truly human and humane society. It is my conviction we will make strides toward a fuller claiming of our humanity as we learn more freely to say to each other, "I'm sorry." Our ability to do that will free us also to examine and change the ways we hurt others.

Y*O*U*T*H* *N*E*W*S

Cub Scouts

The boys had their Blue and Gold Dinner, in the church basement in Monterey on Friday, February 26. A number of awards were given out at that dinner.

They had a visit from the new scout executive, who gave each boy a pine wood derby kit. Rev. Thompson, from Southfield, was their guest for that occasion.

4-H Horse Club

They had a meeting on Monday with the Sheffield Whinnies and talked about the hrose show they're planning on having.

They're planning on taking a trip to Williams Horse Farm sometime later in the Spring.

Juniors

The girls have finished taking orders for cookies. They will be delivered in the first week of may.

On March 10 the girls attended a get together with several other troops to celegrate the 70th birthday of Girl Scouting.

Brownies

The girls went to Lois Ryder's on Feb. 9 and made Valentine boxes and cards. They have been working on weaving also.

(Radioactive waste article cont. p. 6)

Notes from New Marlborough Central School

On February 12th all of the grades celebrated Valentine's Day with classroom parties. The next week school was closed for the Winter Vacation.

Mrs. McAllister visited the fourth grade on Friday, Feb. 26th as part of a program sponsored by the Berkshire Museum. She showed and discussed with the children various art forms. She will return in several weeks to continue this series on art appreciation.

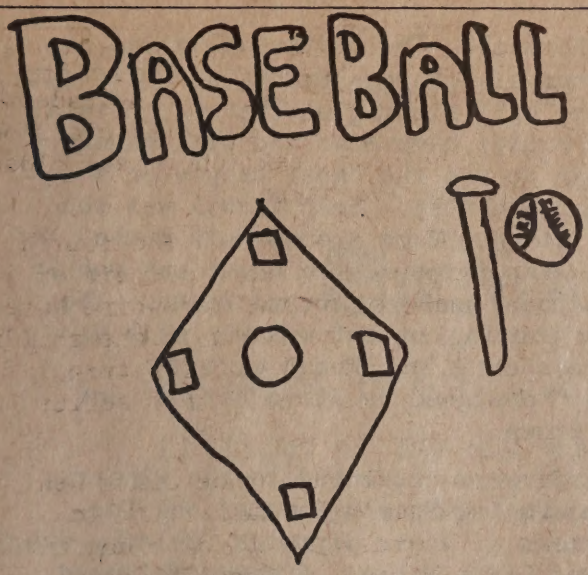
Mrs. Roy's fourth grade class went to Camp Hi-Rock on Mount Washington on Saturday, February 27th, for a day of skiing, inner tubing, ice fishing, skating and hiking. A group of parents volunteered their time to act as chaparones. David Pixley caught a 23" pickerel. An exhausted, but happy, crew returned home at 5:00 p.m.

The second grade has been working on a water unit. They have been doing liquid measuring and as a part of this learning experience the children have made jello. They have also been working on fairy tales as a part of their Language Arts study.

The fourth grade class has scheduled a tag sale for Saturday morning, March 27th, at the school. The purpose of this activity is to raise money to help defray the costs of a class trip to Sturbridge Village on June 1st. They will sell clothing, books, odds and ends, dishes, small appliances, tools, toys, boots, etc. and will need many donations. Please look around your house for items that you would like to donate to this tag sale. The collection has already begun. Items should be clean and in good shape. You can send them to the school with a child or bring them between the hours of 8 and 3 any school day.

cont. from page 1:

A call was made to the State Police in Lee, MA. A trooper there said, yes, he was sure towns were supposed to be notified before radioactive substances were trucked through, but neither he nor anybody else in the office knew just who notified whom. At one point the trooper opinioned that "people in the towns would get alarmed if they were told such trucks were coming through." He had to admit, however, that people have a right to know. All he could come up with other than sympathy for the plight of a town hosting a lost radioactive waste truck was an 800 number filed in



Tammy Carr

BASEBALL GLOVES AND WOOLEN MITTENS

There are three baseball gloves thrown at odd angles across the kitchen cabinet. In the drawers under them are woolen mittens. What a crazy time of year; one day baseball gloves and the next day woolen mittens. Shall I sort through the summer clothes and put away the winter ones? The day I finally decide to do it we get a snow flurry.

Spring does have an edge to it I like. It heralds a new season. I like the musty-fresh smell of the air and my first drink from a sap bucket. What I don't like is the uncertainty. I mean, if it were me planning spring, I would have a smooth take over March 21st. Everyone would know winter had ended and spring had begun. I like order---drawers labled and lists made. But change so often upsets my order.

I looked at my daughter the other day and asked myself, "Is she a girl or a woman?" Of course she's a woman. Her grace and maturity make it obvious. Yet, the very next day I was yelling at her for acting like a two-year old. Is change ever even?

Last month I was preening my feathers. I had so much inner strength. And then, this past week, I was again facing old fears I thought were laid to rest. Fears that toss me at night. Fears that make me feel like the disciples who cried out when their boat nearly capsized even though Christ was right beside them.

Maybe the uncertainty of this time of year is one of God's ways of reminding us of the unpredictableness of life. We so much want it to be predictable. But it isn't -- mostly it is baseball gloves one day and woolen mittens the next.

Ruth S. Burkholder, Gould Farm

LADIES AID

Ladies Aid meets at 1:30, April 1st at the home of Marion Schneider (Mrs. Emil) on Main Road. Any woman of Monterey is welcome to attend. More are needed.

The February meeting was held at Helen McKay's, and the March meeting (March 4) at Mary Ward's. While the non-sewers rolled bandages, the others worked on layettes for world service -- hoods and booties of bright blue. Mary showed us six attractive little sweaters she has knitted two or three rows at a time, in spare moments, when she sits down to rest.

In reference to a talk against nuclear arms given by Margaret White at our January meeting, it was asked what we could do. It was pointed out that we could, individually, help with the People for Peace organization and we could, as an organization, sign their petition. This we voted to do. We would also write letters to Congressmen or other influential people. All of our members were called capable of writing their own letter, which was better than a form letter, but should be kept short and deal with only one subject. If you have two ideas or subjects you want to express, write two letters. (They are counted).

Some of us have received pathetic letters from Ox-Fam about the refugees in Africa. After a short discussion which took into account that, for several years, we have not been a money-earning group, we voted to send Ox-Fam $25.

Our president, Jean Stowell, had opened the meeting with a quotation about thanks and grace (the word is the same in some languages). Jean reminded us that the next day was Women's World Day of Prayer. It was being observed in Sheffield. Mary Ward said she was going and could transport others -- that all over the world, our sisters would be joining in prayer.

Margery Janes, Secretary

GOULD FARM NEWS

Last year the sap started flowing Feb. 16. Total finished syrup for the year, Joe Burkholder reports was 1019 quarts, an unprecedented amount, we think. In 1980 the season did not open until March 12th, so this year may still give us an average yield. The buckets were hung two weeks ago. Here's hoping!

Rose McKee

Winter Olympics Come to Gould Farm

The torch was lit on Friday afternoon, February 26. Events began with two-person sawing. Six teams nervously awaited the starter's orders to start cutting. One minute and fifty-six seconds later Brian Fortune and Nancy Reid had divided their log and were declared winners. Wood splitting came soon afterward. The competition was close, with Amos Wolf edging Nick Sommer by one strike of the mall. Angel-making was an event requiring much artistic talent. This personal creativity was the deciding factor in bringing a first-place to Todd Beyer. The sled-pulling contest was one of the most strenuous events. Every two-person team was able to pull the 600 lb. starting weight, but none could top the 1,450 lb. load, pulled by Amos Wolf and Rick Rhynhart.

The second day's activities started off with the pancake-eating contest. After one hour of constant eating, John Lewis was delcared the winner. He consumed 21 pancakes, four more than his closest opponent. Another event of the day was ice skating. In the auldt division, Cory Loder was the winner and Sean Kerwin was declared the winner among the children. The farthest-flying-toboggan contest was won by Brian Livingston, Cory Loder and Harry Forsyth. The Loder family won the most-unusual-toboggan event; all five came down the hill sitting on chairs. A total of ten bodies came down the hill on one toboggan to win the "most people on a toboggan" contest. Sean Kerwin was the winner in the "Race Around Main House" event. The three-legged event was won by Shelby Loder and her friend Karen. The ice sculpturing contest was won with an art piece entitled "Woman with a Banana," designed by Steve Burgess and Nancy Brown.

Awards were presented to the winners, at the evening Sports Banquet, by the organizers of these Olympics, chiefly Nancy Reid and Clark McKee. A dance followed. The games were special, not because of the competition, but the warmth felt between the participants.

Dana Brown

MONTEREY GRANGE #291

The Monterey Grange #291 met March 3 for its Annual Booster Night. Brother Chester Goodfield, a member of the State AGriculture Committee from Hordeveck was guest speaker. With Deputy Alecia Brazie and members, guests and non-members enjoyed a variety program which included musical selections by Cathy Dennison and her sister Shirley Peck. Next meeting will be March 17 for a Home and Community program. Members are to bring articles weighing one pound to be sold. Proceeds to be used for projects. There will be a pie baking contest for the Brothers and a surprise contest for the sisters in charge of the worthy master.

Fraternally, Ma ry Wallace
Lecturer

continued from page 4:

his office to be called in the event of "Hazardous Material Incidents", meaning a breakdown or a spill.

Calls to Red Ball terminals in Albany, Springfield and Allentown, PA yielded mostly confusion and contradiction. No one of the dispatchers consulted knew of a truck scheduled to travel through or near the Berksh es with a radioactive load.

More research is being done by the Monterey News Staff on the issue. Meanwhile, as Maynard Forbes aptly said, "They should at least give those drivers a road map".

The New York Times

BEGINNING IN APRIL, WE WILL BE RESERVING THE SUNDAY EDITIONS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE BOSTON GLOBE, BY THE MONTH ONLY, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE BY THE 25TH OF MARCH.

WE WILL ALSO BE RESERVING THE NEW YORK TIMES ON A DAILY BASIS, ALSO BY THE MONTH, PAYABLE BY THE 25TH OF THE PRECEEDING MONTH.

APRIL

SUNDAY NY TIMES	$6.60
SUNDAY GLOBE	$5.00
DAILY NY TIMES	$9.10

MONTEREY

GENERAL STORE

OPEN DAILY TIL 6
WED. & SUN. TIL 1

SERVING MONTEREY
FOR OVER 200 YEARS

528-4437

FIRE COMPANY NEWS

The lineup of suppliers and contractors for the new firehouse is falling into place. Taconic Builders' Supply will furnish lumber, roof trusses, insulation, etc. We'll get electrical supplies from Carr Hardware, also in Great Barrington. County Concrete will bring in the transit mix, and Gordon Houldsworth is the forming contractor. Bim Pope, a builder who lives nearby in Otis, has offered his services. He's our chief construction consultant, and he'll be organizing the carpentry work. The telephone company got in touch because they've been looking for a likely spot in town to locate a switching panel. The panel will make more phone lines possible without running an extra cable out Route 23. We struck a deal with no trouble, and an easement is in the works to allow for an underground line to the new panel off a rear corner of the firehouse.

Millie Walsh offered the company some spruce trees that were planted for a windbreak but grew to overshadow the station, and presented a wind fall hazard as well. So on a Saturday morning, March 6, a handful of Fire Company members with several chainsaws and one big backhoe laid the trees down, cut and stacked the sawlogs, and burned the brush. Marty Clark, from Housatonic, will truck the logs for us and cut them into framing lumber. Millie's planning for a greenhouse and/or solar collector along the newly opened up south-facing side of the building.

Along with the progress on the practical side, we've made some gains with the paperwork. We now have both building and sewage disposal permits. Our initial application for a building permit got stalled because a corner of the firehouse sat in the agricultural/residential district, where present zoning by-laws do not allow firehouses. On the face of it, easier to move the building 15 feet toward the road than to change the law. Yet at a hearing convened only a week or so later, for public discussion of proposed zoning by-law changes, the Planning Board received favorably a suggestion that emergency service buildings be allowed by special permit in the agricultural/residential district. It will be months before the proposed changes are voted into effect, and they may be altered further in the process. A suggestion favorably received doesn't yet make a law. So it appears that despite probably revision of the zoning by-law which would allow the firehouse to siton the land where it originally made sense for it to sit, it will instead be closer to Route 23 and entirely within the business district.

Peter Murkett

MONTEREY EMERGENCY -- 528-1932

OPEN BURNING IN MASSACHUSETTS

Unless open burning is being conducted for the purpose of:

--combating or backfiring an existing fire by persons affiliated with an official firefighting agency; or,
--is being used primarily for cooking purposes,

The following conditions MUST BE MET:

(1) Possession of a valid permit from the local fire department or fire warden.

NOTE:
--Such permits may not be valid for more than two days from the date of issueance.
--A written record must be maintained for each permit including the name and address of the person receiving the permit, the date of permit issuance, and the location and type of materials to be burned.
--Such records must be available for public inspection.

(2) Open burning must be conducted:
--during periods of good atmospheric ventilation (consult Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) as needed)
--without causing a nuisance
--with smoke minimizing starters if used.

Open burning permits may be issued for:
(a) Training or research in fire protection or prevention with specific approval of DEQE.
(b) Activities associated with the normal pursuit of agriculture which have been determined by DEQE as necessary
(c) Open burning of brush and trees resulting from agricultural land clearing operations
(d) Disposal of brush, cane, driftwood and forestry debris-excluding grass, hay, leaves, and stumps. All such open burning must be conducted:
1. from Jan.15 to May 1 of each year.
2. on land proximate to the place of generation

Open Burning (cont. from Page)

3. at a location greater than 75 feet from any dwelling, and
4. between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

UNDER ALL CIRCUMSTANCES THE FOLLOWING IS PROHIBITED:

1. Burning of brush, trees, cane and driftwood from commercial or institutional land clearing operations.
2. Burning of grass, hay, leaves and stumps.
3. Burning of tires.
4. Burning at landfills or refuse disposal facilities other than DEQE approved incinerators.
5. Burning during adverse meteorological conditions.
6. Stacking, placing or storing combustible material such that DEQE may presume that it will be burned.

Notes From The Monterey Post Office

Have something to mail and nothing to mail it in? We have boxes and padded mailing bags available at a reasonable price.

Use express mail for next day delivery for the letter or package that has to be there. Ask at window for details.

Board of Assessors

Monterey has received confirmation from the State of its assessments of property at full and fair cash value. The bills will be out by April 1 and due May 1.

Republican Caucus

Registered Republicans are requested to attend a caucus March 26 at 8:00 in the social room of the United Church of Christ.

MICHELE WILKINSON
Grade 5, Sheffield

Selectmen

The town selectmen have issued an all-alcoholic Retail Package Goods license to the Monterey General Store. Assuming that a State review board approves the decision, the store will offer "a wide selection of wines," according to manager Maynard Forbes, in addition to beer and liqour.

The selectmen's unanimous vote followed a public hearing at which several town residents voiced support for the store's request.

The only opposing view came from David Cafarelli, a Pittsfield attorney representing the Monterey Package Store. The Package Store holds the only other retail liqour license available in Monterey.

"We're talking about a small town that can hardly support this one store," he said. "In effect you'll be putting them out of business."

Selectman Jed Lipsky, echoing a position stated by others in attendance, pointed out that witholding one license when two are available would amount to granting a monopoly to the Package Store. He also questioned the contention that the Package Store would lose a large amount of business, citing customer loyalty as a factor.

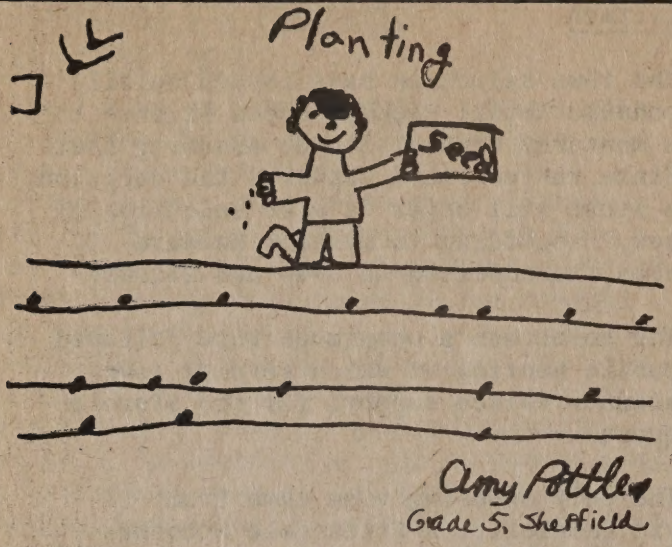
Forbes, manager of the General Store, says he hopes to have alcoholic beveragas on the shelves by early May at the latest.

Police Notes

Police Chief Doug Lyman has requested that town residents who own dogs keep in mind the fact that there is a leash law in Monterey. Canine restraint is especially important this time of year due to the vulnerability of deer, weakened by the long winter and unable to run in the soft snow.

Dogs found running deer may be shot on sight, he said, and their owners fined. "This is no idle threat," he added. "I have seen the game warden in town, and he will enforce the law."

Dog licenses, also, must be obtained before the end of March. Owners should contact the Town Clerk for details.



KEEP YOUNG SEEDLINGS ON YOUR WINDOW SILL

With all this snow on the ground it's hard to believe that in a month or so we will be out scratching around, putting in those first pea and spinach seeds. While we try to wait patiently, many of us fill our sunny window sills with vegetable seedlings so that we can get a jump on the season. Unfortunately, we are often so anxious to get going that we make the mistake of starting things too early. (The 'bigger is better' adage bites the dust again).

Let's use tomatoes as an example. Typically, this is what happens...March 1st you buy a tomato in the store and feel that you just can't take it anymore; you must have a real tomato soon. March 2nd you decide to do something about it and you start tomato seedlings for your garden. By late May they are well over a foot tall and even have a few tiny tomatoes on them. You set them outside and think you have it made. And there!! You have a ripe tomato on the fourth of July!! But later in the month you wonder what happened to your plants; why are you hunting for a ripe tomato? Your plants were too old when you set them out. Their limited root systems had all they could do to survive transplanting shock plus grow and ripen those few tomatoes that were already set. They had nothing left over to set new fruit right away and maintain a constant supply. By late August the plants looked great and by September they have a great crop of green tomatoes just as the frost hit, but you don't get those 25 quarts of tomatoes canned. So try to restrain yourself. If you must, start two tomato plants early and be the first on your block, but wait to start the majority of them until about 8 weeks before you expect to set them outside. I think you will be much happier with your total yield.

Inside Growing Time

4 weeks -- cumcumbers, squash, melons, lettuce
6 weeks -- broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes
8 weeks -- tomatoes
10 weeks -- peppers, eggplant, onions, leeks
12 weeks -- celery

Susan Sellew
Rawson Brook Farm

The Circumpolar Stars

Imagine a beach umbrella. Open it and draw on the inside all the constellations visible in the course of the year. Polaris is where the handle comes in at the center. From Polaris locate the Big Dipper, pouring its milk into the Milkey Way, and the Little Dipper pouring it out. (That's why the Milky Way never empties!) By mid-March the Big Dipper has moved to the Southeast, the Little Dipper to the Northeast. Toward the Northwest lies Cassiopeia, the Queen. Four stars in a tight square with two jutting out at an angle form her chair. When one star is dimmed by haze, the remaining five form a wide "W". Cassiopeia's husband, King Cepheus, sits to the North of her in the shape of a sharply gabled house, four corner stars and one gable star.

Take your umbrella and lean it against a sofa with the rim hanging over the back of the sofa, and the handle angled at 30 degrees (the way our earth is tilted on its axis). When you twirl the umbrella, the Pole Star will stay put. Big and Little Dipper, Cassiopeia and Cepheus whirling around the Pole Star will remain visible, while the other constellations rise above, move and dip below the rim of the couch.

A "Star and Planet Locator" from your bookstore or from Edmund Scientific Co., Barrington, NJ 08007, will help you enjoy the night sky at the cost of a couple of dollars.

Loul McIntosh

Drawing by Joel Schick

OWLS: SILENT NIGHT PILOTS

In 1890 the British ornitholigist Lord Lilford became curious about the mouse-consuming capacity of a Barn Owl. In the name of science he offered many mice to an owl and found that the bird took nine mice without hesitation, swallowing them all whole except for the tail of the ninth, which hung a little askew from the owl's beak. Three hours later the same owl was ready for four more mice. Lilford estimated that a family of seven Barn Owls in one night of good hunting would eat more than 150 mice, or their nutritional equivalent in rats, gophers, moths, beetles, crayfish, snakes, etc. More modern statisticians have calculated that in the state of California, where ground squirrels and gophers destroy more than 10% of the agricultural crop each year, each able-bodied owl saves the state $50 a year in rodent control. Despite this positive mathematical evidence, owls are maligned, misunderstood, and even feared by the superstitious. Many people show little appreciation of the role of predators in the natural world, particularly since most, like coyotes and owls, are nocturnal and on such different schedules from ours that we never meet, though we may live in the same part of the woods.

The ancestors of our modern owls evolved 36 million years ago. These were the grandfathers of the Great-Horned or Cat Owls, the largest and most dramatic-looking in New England. Like all northeastern owls, Great-Horned Owls nest very early, and often lay their eggs in February in Massachusetts. They use the second-hand nests of crows or hawks and incubate their eggs long before the leaves bud out. For camouflage they rely upon their protective coloring and their characteristic "ears" or "horns" which are tufts of feathers resembling cats' ears and which help the roosting owl to blend into its background of rough bark and branches. The owlets keep to the nest for the first month, with both parents working hard all night to feed the family. By mid-April to early May, the rodent population is reaching a peak and the fledglings are ready to hunt.

The smallest owl of this area is the Saw-Whet, so called because one of its many cries sounds like a steel file being applied to a big-toothed saw. It has no ear tufts and can be distinguished from other small owls by the three rows of white spots onits tail. The saw-filing song of the Saw-Whet Owl is heard mostly at breeding time; which is early February to March. After that it may change its tune to a metallic "tang, tang, tang," or a soft "whurdle, whurdle." Like the Screech Owl, it subsists on a varied diet of mice, cutworms, locusts, grasshoppers, and other insects. The owl most commonly heard around Monterey seems to be the Barred Owl. This is a large (up to 24") round-headed species with big black eyes and a call which has been likened to "Who cooks for you? Who cooks for you-all?"

The great-Horned, Saw-Whet, Barred and Screech Owls belong to a large group of owls known as the Strigidae. The other owl group, the Aluconidae, is represented only by the Barn Owl, which may be seen occasionally in this area. Unlike Screech Owls, Barn Owls do screech, making an explosive sound which can be heard half a mile away. The renowned ornitholigist Edward Howe Forbush describes other Barn Owl cries as the "weird scream, nasal snore, loud prolonged rasping sksck and a feeble and querulous note sounding like quaek-quaek." It is distinguished by its heart-shaped face and by its propensity for nesting in old buildings, out-buildings, churches and barns.

Although their eyesight is perfectly good by day, owls are especially adapted for night life in that they are one of the few kinds of birds equipped with eyeshine, or the tapedum lucidum, which reflects a strong red glow. Their hearing is quite good too, enabling them to hunt in absolute darkness by sound alone. On damp nights hunting

(continued on page 13)

Historical Notes: Sugaring Among the Mahicans

It is appropriate this month, as the maple sap begins to flow, to note that among the first recorded observations on the life of our local Indians was their sugaring activities.

Before the establishment, in 1736, of a unified "Indian Town," under missionary supervision at Stockbridge, there were two principal settlements of the Housatonic Indians. One, called Shahtukuk ("small stream flowing in") was in north Sheffield where the Green River empties into the Housatonic. Umpachene was its sachem. The other was in the south part of the present Stockbridge and was called Wnahtukuk ("head of the stream"). Here Konkapot was sachem and had his home on a knoll where the brook, variously known as Sepoese ("little stream"), Skunk Brook, Konk Brook, or Knokapot Brook, joins the river.

At first the missionary and school teacher, Messers. Sergeant and Woodbridge, tried to serve the two separate settlements. Their work became especially difficult in the spring when both villages were deserted and everybody moved into the maple groves on the hillsides above the valley and set up their sugaring camps. Their English mentors went with them and found the outdoor life invigorating. They solved the problem of distributing ministry and school teaching equally by separating for three weeks, one at each camp, and then changing places for the next three weeks. Sergeant wrote that at this time he "learned more of their manners and language than ever I had before."

Among "sundry childish and ridiculous things which they believed" was a myth explaining the flow of the maple sap. The seven big stars you see are seven hunters. They pursue a great bear across the sky all summer long. They catch up with it in the fall and wound it with their arrows. It is the bear's blood, scattered over the forests as he runs, that turns the leaves red. By winter they have killed the bear and the snow is the sweet white fat that they take from its body, so much that it lies on the ground everywhere. As the sun gets warm in the spring, this fat melts and turns to oil. It sinks into the earth and is taken up by the roots of the maple trees. And that is where the sap for our sugar comes from.

photo by Susan McAllester

Joe Bater uses twentieth century methods to gather sap.

More Local History

The population of Tyringham before the division in 1847 was 1712 of which 744 lived in Monterey. By 1859, Monterey's population had risen to 823.

For a decade or so after the Civil War, farms increased. Dairying became the major activity with charcoal as second.

With abundant water power, mills and industries sprang up along the Konkapot. Cheese boxes, rat traps and rakes were made in buildings where the river crosses Beartown Road, and shingle, grist, carding, paper and saw mills were situated on the river behind the general store.

As the industries died because of new methods, better transportation and power, a new era began. Beginning around 1895, people became interested in Monterey and its Lake Garfield as a vacation area. In due time, the residents opened their homes as summer boarding houses. Ledgehurst, Willow Glen, Lake Garfield Inn, The Maples and the Pines are the names of but a few of the boarding houses that flourished in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth.

Fourth and fifth generations of some of those early boarders are now summer residents and a few have become permanent villagers.

Sally Fijux

TOWN NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DESIGN CONTEST BASED IN MONTEREY

Mark Horowitz of Monterey has conceived and mounted an International Global Design Contest. Sponsored by the Uniterra Foundation, located in Monterey, the Contest will celebrate what its creators call the "Best kept secret in human history" that being "we are one humanity, one earth, joined in a common destiny". With a distinguished panel of artists, graphic designers and individuals well known for their work on global social issues, the Contest will award prizes to entrants who best communicate through art the statement: "One Earth, One Humanity, One Future".

The purpose of the contest is to enable people to confront such overwhelming world problems as hunger, poverty, ecological damage and the arms race with an understanding that everyone living on earth is a member of one human family. The prizes to be awarded will complement the concerns of the Contest. They will include around-the-world airline tickets, tractors, food supplies, solar equipment, bicycles, camera equipment, computers, etc.

Contest directors need help, suggestions and contributions. Write Mark Horowitz, Executive Director, The Uniterra Foundation, P.O. Box 38, Monterey 01245.

Energy Project News -- Recycling

The melting snow has confirmed has confirmed what we suspected - that people have been bringing their bottles to the recycling shed all winter. As the weather improves we will be catching up on the glass grinding.

A couple of reminders on recycling:

1. Please remove all metal caps and rings from bottles.
2. For the sake of the grinders, please wash out bottles that have held food like mayonaise and peanut butter.
3. We can only recycle DRY newspapers, not wet ones and not magazines.

Our main project for the coming season is the building of an open shed to keep the glass barrels out of the weather.

According to the preliminary report on the landfill, its use can be extended by recycling. We will be talking more about the report in the next issue.

Planning Board

The Planning Board was pleased to receive many ideas, criticisms, and suggestions about the proposed zoning bylaw revisions at the Public Hearing held on Feb. 27th. As a result, a number of changes have been incorporated in the version of the bylaws which will be presented to the Board of Selectmen in the next week. The selectmen will soon announce the date of the Special Town Meeting which will be held to vote on the bylaws. Copies of the proposed bylaws (without the changes resulting from the public hearing) are still available at the Town Offices, and members of the Planning Board are happy to answer questions and give explanations.

OWLS:Silent Night Partners (Cont.from P. 11)

by sound is hampered because the scurrying feet of mice and rats are muted. On these nights, owls rely on their amazing eyesight, being capable of seeing and capturing prey in light equivalent to that given by a single candle 2,500 feet away. Despite their famous vocal ability, owls are well-known also for their silence in flight. The flight feathers have downy edges which prevent the whistling noise made by the stiff primary feathers of most birds. The owl is a fierce hunter, shy neighbor, silent traveller and noisy lovemaker. Early naturalist John Burroughs writes: "His wings are shod with silence, his plumage is edged with down."

Town News (Cont. from Page)

THE CLEAN AIR ACT

The Clean Air Act is up for re-authorization this year. In fact, action to substantially weaken the provisions of the act may be taken before April 1. After 10 years, the Clean Air Act has been effective in reducing the levels of air pollutants and in maintaining clean air in areas that were endangered, such as national parks and wilderness areas. It has not been effective in reducing acid rain, an increasing problem for the Northeast, nor has it persuaded EPA to establish criteria for 37 possible hazardous air pollutants, such as asbestos, benzene, mercury and radionuclides.

As we might expect, environmentalists would like to see the bill strengthened and enforced, whereas business interests feel burdened by many of the existing requirements. For us, as citizens, the questions are: How clean do we want our air to be and what is a reasonable cost? Sounds simple enough.

There are currently two bills in Congress being considered as vehicles for amendments of the Clean Air Act. The first (HR 5252) was introduced by Rep. John Dingell (D-MI.), Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee. Briefly, this bill extends deadlines for meeting air quality standards from 1982-87 to as late as 1993. It drops the existing requirement that new sources in polluted areas must use the most advanced controls used by other sources. It weakens provisions ensuring that states adopt and enforce pollution control plans. And, it doubles the amount of emissions permitted by new autos. It does not address the problem of acid rain or unregulated toxic air pollutants.

The second bill (HR 5555) was introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA.), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment. While maintaining the strengths of the Clean Air Act, it stakes steps to streamline compliance requirements. It simplifies the permit process for new construction in polluted areas and requires the EPA to speed up acceptance of State Implementation Plan revisions. It also lifts the ban on construction of non-compliance areas if the newer source would speed up retirement of older, dirtier sources. It would require the EPA to decide which toxic air pollutants will be regulated. Most important, it would initiate a ten year program to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions, a chief cause of acid rain.

The Reagan administration and industry groups hope to pass the Dingell Bill. The Waxman Bill is supported by the Clean Air Coalition which includes the American Lung Association, the League of Women Voters, the National Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club, to name a few. At this time, our representative Congressman Silvio Conte has not stated his position. However, he did not support a house resolution which expressed a "sense of the House" support for the current law and had 95 co-sponsors. Please contact Mr. Conte and tell him how you feel about the Clean Air Act.

Michele Miller, Monterey, MA

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Hurry

Listen to us. Listen carefully, there's not much time left.

A monster is at the front door, breathing nuclear fire, threatening all while beguiling some with the clinking of silver.

We see it clearly; but others do not, their vision blurred by smog and haze years in the making, by distracting frustrations or personal ambitions.

Help us to capture it, destroy it, bury it forever, before it's too late. We may not succeed, alone; together we will not fail.

Hurry. There's not much time left.

- Bernie Kleban
(People for Peace)

Letter to the Editor:

We have thoroughly enjoyed receiving the Monterey News. However, since our jobs are going to prevent us from returning to Monterey we feel its about time we pull up our roots and work harder to establish some of that good community spirit and cooperation out here in New York. I've been especially heartened by your community's active roll in peacemaking. I used to feel that I as an individual could do nothing to stop a nuclear holocaust. However, I'm especially encouraged by the news from Europe, where millions of individuals protesting and working together are finally making the leaders think twice about permitting nuclear bombs to be housed on their soil. If more individuals over here work together the way your community is, maybe there still is hope that our children will someday be able to live in freedom from the fear of nuclear destruction.

Nancy Price, Fairport, N.Y.

MUSIC AND DANCE BY LOCAL MUSICIANS

Contra Dances:

Mountain Laurel Band

--Fri. March 19, 1st Congregational Church, Pittsfield, 8 p.m., Joe Baker calling.

--Sat. March 27, Sheffield Grange, experienced dancers' program, 8:00 pm

--Sat. April 10, Sheffield Grange, beginners' program, Penelope Naumann calling, 8:00 pm

Free Coffeehouse - Sat. March 20

The Sandisfield Arts Council presents a concert of contemporary and traditional folk songs with John Sellew, Dara Jensen, Jay Amidon and friends.

8:00 p.m. Sandisfield Town Hall, Admission Free, Refreshments served.

Folk Concert, Sun. March 21, 3:00 p.m. at The Stage, Railroad St., Gt. Barrington with John Sellew, Dara Jensen, Jay Amidon, Bruce Pacheco & Bob Johnson. $2.50 admission, children free.

Hootenanny, Sat. April 3rd, 8:00 p.m. at the Sheffield Grante, performers and listeners welcome, bring instruments! $1.00 adults, Joe Baker, host.

PERSONALS

Victor P. Spadaccini, 77, of 3 Blue Hill Road, died Feb. 12 at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield after a short illness. He is survived by a brother, James Spadaccini of Sheffield, and four sisters, Rose Zilka of Monterey, Catherine Sellew of New Marlborough and Monterey, Eva Morrison of Great Barrington and Anna Crine of Hartsville.

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The 8th day of each month

Mail to: Box 264, Monterey MA 01245

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